

**IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A sliding member ~~according to claim 2,~~  
wherein comprising a plurality of holes formed on a sliding surface thereof, which  
sliding surface is adapted to slide on a mating member, wherein  
at least one of said holes has an enlarged portion in at least a portion  
between an opening end and a bottom end thereof, the enlarged portion being  
larger than the opening end on the sliding surface,  
the ratio of B/A is in the range between 1.2 and 4.0, in which the symbol  
"A" indicates the area of the opening end, and the symbol "B" indicates the area  
of the enlarged portion, and  
the average diameter of the holes at the opening ends on the sliding  
surface is between 1 and 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

7. (Currently Amended) A sliding member ~~according to claim 3,~~  
wherein comprising a plurality of holes formed on a sliding surface thereof, which  
sliding surface is adapted to slide on a mating member, wherein  
at least one of said holes has an enlarged portion in at least a portion  
between an opening end and a bottom end thereof, the enlarged portion being  
larger than the opening end on the sliding surface,  
the holes comprise at least one hole having the enlarged portion, of which  
the interior forms a cavity, and at least one hole accommodating a solid lubricant  
therein, and  
the average diameter of the holes at the opening ends on the sliding  
surface is between 1 and 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

8. (Currently Amended) A sliding member according to claim 4,  
~~wherein the average diameter of the holes at the opening ends on the sliding~~  
~~surface is between 1 and 100  $\mu\text{m}$~~  6, wherein the holes comprise:

\_\_\_\_\_ at least one hole having the enlarged portion, of which the interior forms a cavity; and

\_\_\_\_\_ at least one hole accommodating a solid lubricant therein.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A sliding member ~~according to claim 2,~~  
~~wherein comprising a plurality of holes formed on a sliding surface thereof, which~~  
sliding surface is adapted to slide on a mating member, wherein

\_\_\_\_\_ at least one of said holes has an enlarged portion in at least a portion  
between an opening end and a bottom end thereof, the enlarged portion being  
larger than the opening end on the sliding surface,

\_\_\_\_\_ the ratio of B/A is in the range between 1.2 and 4.0, in which the symbol  
"A" indicates the area of the opening end, and the symbol "B" indicates the area  
of the enlarged portion, and

\_\_\_\_\_ the depths of the holes at deepest portions thereof are between 5 and 70  
μm.

11. (Currently Amended) A sliding member ~~according to claim 3,~~  
~~wherein comprising a plurality of holes formed on a sliding surface thereof, which~~  
sliding surface is adapted to slide on a mating member, wherein

\_\_\_\_\_ at least one of said holes has an enlarged portion in at least a portion  
between an opening end and a bottom end thereof, the enlarged portion being  
larger than the opening end on the sliding surface,

\_\_\_\_\_ the holes comprise at least one hole having been large portion, of which  
the interior forms a cavity, and at least one hole accommodating a solid lubricant  
therein, and

\_\_\_\_\_ the depths of the holes at deepest portions thereof are between 5 and 70  
μm.

12. (Currently Amended) A sliding member according to claim 4,  
~~wherein the depths of the holes at deepest portions thereof are between 5 and~~  
~~70  $\mu$ m~~ 10, wherein the holes comprise:  
at least one hole having the enlarged portion, of which the interior forms a  
cavity; and  
at least one hole accommodating a solid lubricant therein.

13. (Currently Amended) A sliding member ~~according to claim 5,~~  
~~wherein comprising a plurality of holes formed on a sliding surface thereof, which~~  
~~sliding surface is adapted to slide on a mating member, wherein~~  
at least one of said holes has an enlarged portion in at least a portion  
between an opening end and a bottom end thereof, the enlarged portion being  
larger than the opening end on the sliding surface,  
the average diameter of the holes at opening ends on the sliding surface  
is between 1 and 100  $\mu$ m, and  
the depths of the holes at deepest portions thereof are between 5 and 70  
 $\mu$ m.

14. (Original) A sliding member according to claim 8, wherein the  
depths of the holes at deepest portions thereof are between 5 and 70  $\mu$ m.

15. - 20. (Canceled)